

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 056022

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AMGT, PFOR, XX, AR

SUBJECT: ARGENTINE PARM - ANNUAL POLICY AND RESOURCE
ASSESSMENT
REF: STATE 038356, STATE 038338, STATE 045461

1. THERE FOLLOWS A FEW OF THE BUREAU'S THOUGHTS WHICH WE
HOPE WILL BE HELPFUL TO YOU IN PREPARING THIS YEAR'S PARM.

2. LONG-TERM STRATEGIC U.S. INTERESTS. WE WOULD APPRECI-
ATE A NEW, HARD LOOK AT U.S. INTERESTS IN ARGENTINA, WHICH
SEEM RELATED PRIMARILY TO ARGENTINA'S NUCLEAR AND FOOD
POTENTIAL AND, IN THE SOMEWHAT LONGER RUN, TO THE IMPORTANT
ROLE IT COULD PLAY IN THE HEMISPHERE AND INTERNATIONAL
FORA IF IT EVER GETS ITS HOUSE IN ORDER. BILATERAL
ECONOMIC OR MILITARY INTERESTS DO NOT APPEAR AT THIS
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JUNCTURE TO BE DOMINANT. WE ENCOURAGE A TOUGH APPRAISAL OF
OUR INTERESTS BY THE COUNTRY TEAM, BEARING IN MIND THAT,
TO SOME EXTENT, ARGENTINA IS VULNERABLE TO U.S. HUMAN
RIGHTS PRESSURES BECAUSE IT IS NOT PERCEIVED TO BE VERY
IMPORTANT TO THE UNITED STATES. WE ASSUME THAT ANY DIS-
CUSSION OF INTERESTS WILL INCLUDE THE VARIETY OF OUR
CONCERNS (E.G., SCIENTIFIC AND NARCOTICS CONTROL).

3. OVERVIEW. WE WILL WANT YOUR ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT

MILITARY GOVERNMENT AND WHETHER AND WHY IT WILL HAVE ANY MORE STAYING POWER THAN PREVIOUS MILITARY EXPERIMENTS. WE ALSO NEED YOUR VIEWS ON THE LONG-TERM CONSEQUENCES OF OUR CURRENT POLICIES WHICH MAY BE LEADING TO USG-GOA DISENGAGEMENT (E.G., REDUCTION IN MILITARY COOPERATION, NEGATIVE U.S. ATTITUDE IN MULTILATERAL LENDING INSTITUTIONS).

4. OBJECTIVES AND SPECIFIC COURSES OF ACTION SHOULD BE RECOMMENDED. FOREMOST TARGETS SHOULD BE PROMOTION OF NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS.

5. A PRINCIPAL POLICY ISSUE APPEARS TO BE HOW TO RETAIN LEVERAGE ON ARGENTINA IN ORDER TO PROMOTE ONE SET OF INTERESTS (E.G., NON-PROLIFERATION AND ECONOMIC) WHILE CONFRONTING ARGENTINA ON ANOTHER SET (E.G., HUMAN RIGHTS AND, PERHAPS IN TIME, NUCLEAR). IS IT MORE PRODUCTIVE TO COAX OR COERCE THE GOA? IN FACT, WHAT CARROTS DO WE HAVE? WILL OUR CURRENT EMPHASIS ON HUMAN RIGHTS DO LONG-TERM DAMAGE TO U.S. INTERESTS IN ARGENTINA OR CONTRIBUTE TO THE EVOLUTION OF STABLE INSTITUTIONS AND MORE COMPATIBLE GOVERNMENTS? ANOTHER ISSUE IS WHETHER WE CAN RETAIN DEFENSE COOPERATION WHILE DISASSOCIATING OURSELVES FROM THE INTERNAL SECURITY POLICE ROLE OF THE ARMED FORCES. THE EMBASSY MAY ALSO WISH TO DISCUSS ARGENTINA'S RELATIONS WITH THE COMMUNIST STATES AND WHETHER ARGENTINA'S TRADING

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SURPLUSES WITH THEM WILL LEAD EVENTUALLY TO COMMUNIST INROADS DETRIMENTAL TO USG INTERESTS.

6. THE ARGENTINE SITUATION IS RECOGNIZED AS A VERY DYNAMIC ONE. WE HOPE THE COUNTRY TEAM WILL BE ABLE TO PROJECT BEYOND CURRENT BILATERAL DIFFICULTIES TO GIVE US A FEELING FOR THE LONG-TERM CONSEQUENCES OF OUR POLICIES AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO BOTH SUBSTANCE AND STYLE THAT ARE MENDED WITH THE SPECIFIC ACTIONS RECOMMENDED UNDER PARA 4. PERHAPS EVEN MORE DIFFICULT, WE WOULD LIKE THE COUNTRY TEAM TO GAZE AT ARGENTINA'S FUTURE AND FORECAST WHETHER STABLE GOVERNMENT MAY AT LAST BE IN STORE FOR THAT TROUBLED NATION OR WHETHER THE DISASTROUS MILITARY/POPULIST CYCLES CAN BE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE INDEFINITELY.

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